

Reading Test

65 MINUTES, 52 QUESTIONS

Turn to Section 1 of your answer sheet to answer the questions in this section.

DIRECTIONS

Each passage or pair of passages below is followed by a number of questions. After reading each passage or pair, choose the best answer to each question based on what is stated or implied in the passage or passages and in any accompanying graphics (such as a table or graph).

Questions 1-10 are based on the following passage.

This passage is adapted from Daniyal Mueenuddin, "Nawabdin Electrician." ©2009 by Daniyal Mueenuddin.

Another man might have thrown up his hands—but not Nawabdin. His twelve daughters acted as a spur to his genius, and he looked with
 Line satisfaction in the mirror each morning at the face of
 5 a warrior going out to do battle. Nawab of course knew that he must proliferate his sources of revenue—the salary he received from K. K. Harouni for tending the tube wells would not even begin to suffice. He set up a little one-room flour mill, run off
 10 a condemned electric motor—condemned by him. He tried his hand at fish-farming in a little pond at the edge of his master’s fields. He bought broken radios, fixed them, and resold them. He did not demur even when asked to fix watches, though that
 15 enterprise did spectacularly badly, and in fact earned him more kicks than kudos, for no watch he took apart ever kept time again.

K. K. Harouni rarely went to his farms, but lived mostly in Lahore. Whenever the old man visited,
 20 Nawab would place himself night and day at the door leading from the servants’ sitting area into the walled grove of ancient banyan trees where the old farmhouse stood. Grizzled, his peculiar aviator

glasses bent and smudged, Nawab tended the
 25 household machinery, the air conditioners, water heaters, refrigerators, and water pumps, like an engineer tending the boilers on a foundering steamer in an Atlantic gale. By his superhuman efforts he almost managed to maintain K. K. Harouni in the
 30 same mechanical cocoon, cooled and bathed and lighted and fed, that the landowner enjoyed in Lahore.

Harouni of course became familiar with this ubiquitous man, who not only accompanied him on
 35 his tours of inspection, but morning and night could be found standing on the master bed rewiring the light fixture or in the bathroom poking at the water heater. Finally, one evening at teatime, gauging the psychological moment, Nawab asked if he might say
 40 a word. The landowner, who was cheerfully filing his nails in front of a crackling rosewood fire, told him to go ahead.

“Sir, as you know, your lands stretch from here to the Indus, and on these lands are fully seventeen tube
 45 wells, and to tend these seventeen tube wells there is but one man, me, your servant. In your service I have earned these gray hairs”—here he bowed his head to show the gray—“and now I cannot fulfill my duties as I should. Enough, sir, enough. I beg you, forgive
 50 me my weakness. Better a darkened house and proud hunger within than disgrace in the light of day. Release me, I ask you, I beg you.”

The old man, well accustomed to these sorts of speeches, though not usually this florid, filed away at
 55 his nails and waited for the breeze to stop.

“What’s the matter, Nawabdin?”

“Matter, sir? O what could be the matter in your service. I’ve eaten your salt for all my years. But sir, on the bicycle now, with my old legs, and with the
60 many injuries I’ve received when heavy machinery fell on me—I cannot any longer bicycle about like a bridegroom from farm to farm, as I could when I first had the good fortune to enter your employment. I beg you, sir, let me go.”

65 “And what’s the solution?” asked Harouni, seeing that they had come to the crux. He didn’t particularly care one way or the other, except that it touched on his comfort—a matter of great interest to him.

70 “Well, sir, if I had a motorcycle, then I could somehow limp along, at least until I train up some younger man.”

The crops that year had been good, Harouni felt expansive in front of the fire, and so, much to the disgust of the farm managers, Nawab received a
75 brand-new motorcycle, a Honda 70. He even managed to extract an allowance for gasoline.

The motorcycle increased his status, gave him weight, so that people began calling him “Uncle,” and asking his opinion on world affairs, about which he
80 knew absolutely nothing. He could now range further, doing a much wider business. Best of all, now he could spend every night with his wife, who had begged to live not on the farm but near her family in Firoza, where also they could educate at
85 least the two eldest daughters. A long straight road ran from the canal headworks near Firoza all the way to the Indus, through the heart of the K. K. Harouni lands. Nawab would fly down this road on his new machine, with bags and cloths hanging from every
90 knob and brace, so that the bike, when he hit a bump, seemed to be flapping numerous small vestigial wings; and with his grinning face, as he rolled up to whichever tube well needed servicing, with his ears almost blown off, he shone with the speed of his
95 arrival.

1

The main purpose of the first paragraph is to

- A) characterize Nawab as a loving father.
- B) outline the schedule of a typical day in Nawab’s life.
- C) describe Nawab’s various moneymaking ventures.
- D) contrast Nawab’s and Harouni’s lifestyles.

2

As used in line 16, “kicks” most nearly means

- A) thrills.
- B) complaints.
- C) jolts.
- D) interests.

3

The author uses the image of an engineer at sea (lines 23-28) most likely to

- A) suggest that Nawab often dreams of having a more exciting profession.
- B) highlight the fact that Nawab’s primary job is to tend to Harouni’s tube wells.
- C) reinforce the idea that Nawab has had many different occupations in his life.
- D) emphasize how demanding Nawab’s work for Harouni is.

4

Which choice best supports the claim that Nawab performs his duties for Harouni well?

- A) Lines 28-32 (“By his . . . Lahore”)
- B) Lines 40-42 (“The landowner . . . ahead”)
- C) Lines 46-49 (“In your . . . should”)
- D) Line 58 (“I’ve . . . years”)

5

In the context of the conversation between Nawab and Harouni, Nawab’s comments in lines 43-52 (“Sir . . . beg you”) mainly serve to

- A) flatter Harouni by mentioning how vast his lands are.
- B) boast to Harouni about how competent and reliable Nawab is.
- C) emphasize Nawab’s diligence and loyalty to Harouni.
- D) notify Harouni that Nawab intends to quit his job tending the tube wells.

6

Nawab uses the word “bridegroom” (line 62) mainly to emphasize that he’s no longer

- A) in love.
- B) naive.
- C) busy.
- D) young.

7

It can reasonably be inferred from the passage that Harouni provides Nawab with a motorcycle mainly because

- A) Harouni appreciates that Nawab has to work hard to support his family.
- B) Harouni sees benefit to himself from giving Nawab a motorcycle.
- C) Nawab’s speech is the most eloquent that Harouni has ever heard.
- D) Nawab threatens to quit if Harouni doesn’t agree to give him a motorcycle.

8

Which choice provides the best evidence for the answer to the previous question?

- A) Lines 65-66 (“And . . . crux”)
- B) Lines 66-68 (“He didn’t . . . him”)
- C) Lines 75-76 (“He even . . . gasoline”)
- D) Lines 80-81 (“He could . . . business”)

9

The passage states that the farm managers react to Nawab receiving a motorcycle with

- A) disgust.
- B) happiness.
- C) envy.
- D) indifference.

10

According to the passage, what does Nawab consider to be the best result of getting the motorcycle?

- A) People start calling him “Uncle.”
- B) He’s able to expand his business.
- C) He’s able to educate his daughters.
- D) He can spend more time with his wife.